

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2008. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 11-35 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 11, 12, 23, and 24 are being amended.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, including paragraphs [0009]-[0011] and [0050]-[0053] of the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

The First 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Each of claims 11-13, 20, 21, 23-25, 32, and 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Moroto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,121,326). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

According to the M.P.E.P. §2131, a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a), (b), and (e) only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Claims 11, 23

In a method as recited in claims 11 and 23, the roads including the guide route, main road and a branch road are given priority in that order in the road map, the priority of the main road and the branch road are changed in accordance with a dynamic change in the guide route, and the summarized map is prepared by selecting roads based on the changed priority. The guide route is dynamically changed in accordance with an area in which the vehicle is present and a running speed of the vehicle. Thus, the priority of the roads to be displayed on a display means such as a screen is dynamically changed in accordance with an area in which the vehicle is present and a running speed of the vehicle. For example, a road straightly connected to the direction of the vehicle's movement is displayed even if the priority for that

road is lower. Therefore, in the method as recited in claims 11 and 23, the elements to be displayed on a display means can be selected in accordance with the priority of roads on the basis of the sorts of the roads and the connection with the guide route. Consequently, a driver can recognize the guide route by seeing the display means in a short time.

In contrast, Moroto merely shows that a departure place, a destination, roads and etc. are selectively displayed in accordance with a scale ratio of a displayed map. The scaled ratio is set in conformity with the distance between a present position and the destination. In Moroto, the displayed roads are prepared beforehand in form of a table and ranked as the national roads, prefectural roads, other roads or roads classified by number of lanes. The navigation system displays roads belonging to the ranks higher than a rank determined by the scale ratio of a displayed map. (See col. 5, lines 53-65, Figs. 3, 4(a)-(b).) In Moroto, the ranks of roads are given statistically in accordance the sorts of roads. However, Moroto does not show or suggest explicitly or implicitly changing the priority of the main road and the branch road in accordance with a dynamic change in the guide route, and preparing the summarized map by selecting roads based on the changed priority.

Therefore, Moroto does not show every element recited in claims 11 and 23. Accordingly, claims 11 and 23 are not anticipated by Moroto.

Claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 24, 25, 32, 33

As to dependent claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 24, 25, 32, and 33, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claims 11 and 23 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 24, 25, 32, and 33 must also be allowable.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Each of claims 14-18 and 26-29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Moroto in view of Katou et al, (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,161). Each of claims 22, 34, and 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Moroto in view of Katou, and further in view of Nakayama et al, (U.S. Pat. No. 5,732,385). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

As set forth above, Moroto fails to teach all the elements recited in claims 11 and 23, from which claims 14-18, 22, 26-29, 34, and 35 depend. Either of the secondary references of Katou and Nakayama provides any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that makes up for

the deficiencies in Moroto. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art could not and would not achieve all the features as recited in claim 11 and 23, from which claims 14-18, 22, 26-29, 34, and 35 depend, by combining Katou or Nakayama with Moroto.

Accordingly, claims 14-18, 22, 26-29, 34, and 35 are not obvious in view of all the prior art cited.

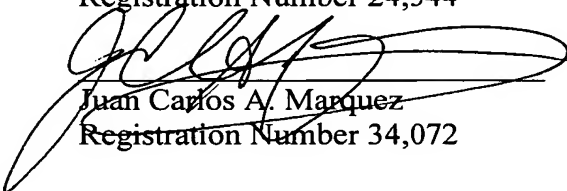
Conclusion

In light of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344


Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

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SPF/JCM/YOM